

these important UN efforts and know that the United States could not ask for more outstanding representation in these venues.●

“HUMANITARIANS OF THE YEAR” AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the good work of Dr. and Mrs. Donald Austin, of Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Together, as a team, Dr. and Mrs. Austin have worked on behalf of numerous charitable organizations in Southeastern Michigan for almost thirty years. Dr. Austin, a neurosurgeon, and Mrs. Dale Austin, a civic leader, consistently and selflessly contribute both their time and effort to their surrounding community and to the State of Michigan.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Dr. and Mrs. Austin are recipients of this year's March of Dimes “Humanitarians of the Year Award.” The Austins are being honored with this award as a result of their combined contributions to their community. They will be given their awards at the 26th Annual March of Dimes Sweetheart Ball on Saturday, March 7, 1998 in Dearborn, Michigan. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Austin.●

“HUMANITARIANS OF THE YEAR” AWARD RECIPIENT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Don H. Barden, of Detroit, Michigan, for his strong commitment to causes that benefit the Detroit community. Mr. Barden, a businessman, has guided the Barden Companies Inc. from revenues of \$600,000 to over \$90 million in 11 years, making it the thirteenth largest black-owned business in the country. In addition, Mr. Barden is active in a variety of civic and business groups.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that he is the recipient of this year's March of Dimes “Humanitarians of the Year Award.” Mr. Barden is being honored with this award as a result of his strong commitment to the Detroit community. He will be given his award at the 26th Annual March of Dimes Sweetheart Ball on Saturday, March 7, 1998 in Dearborn, Michigan. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Barden.●

“HUMANITARIANS OF THE YEAR” AWARD RECIPIENT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Tony Soave, of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan for the contributions he has made to the Detroit area, as well as to the State of Michigan. Mr. Soave is the president of Soave Industries. Under his guidance, City Management Corporation, the environmental arm of Soave Enterprises, became the largest independent waste management company in Michigan and

an industry leader in environmental practices and community responsibility. City Management Corporation has contributed greatly to the community by “adopting” schools in Detroit, sponsoring students in co-op education programs and offering scholarships. Tony has also made possible the restoration of economic life to abandoned and underutilized properties.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that he is the recipient of this year's March of Dimes “Humanitarians of the Year Award.” Mr. Soave is being honored with this award as a result of his strong commitment to the Detroit community. He will be given his award at the 26th Annual March of Dimes Sweetheart Ball on Saturday, March 7, 1998 in Dearborn, Michigan. I extend my sincerest congratulations to my very good friend Tony Soave.●

“HUMANITARIANS OF THE YEAR” AWARD RECIPIENT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Anne Simons, of Detroit, Michigan for her tireless commitment to countless charitable causes in the Metro-Detroit area. I am very proud, on behalf of the State of Michigan, to recognize her activity in many organizations.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Ms. Simons is the recipient of this year's March of Dimes “Humanitarians of the Year Award.” Ms. Simons is being honored with this award as a result of her strong voluntary commitment to the Detroit community. She will be given her award at the 26th Annual March of Dimes Sweetheart Ball on Saturday, March 7, 1998 in Dearborn, Michigan. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Simons.●

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR ERNEST THOMPSON

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor Ernest Thompson who has announced his retirement after 26 years as Mayor of Artesia, New Mexico. I am proud to honor this great New Mexican, who personifies leadership and commitment to public service and to his community.

Mr. Thompson was first elected Mayor of Artesia in 1972 and has served continually for seven terms since then. A lot has changed in Artesia since Mayor Thompson was first elected. He remembers that when he first started, the city had no money for some of the most basic municipal necessities. For example, he remembers that the garbage trucks didn't even have doors.

Mayor Thompson has helped to turn the city around. Under him, the city's equipment has been improved, new construction has been started, and Artesia's economy has flourished. During his tenure, Mayor Thompson has been pivotal in bringing the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to

Artesia, in improving the conditions of the streets and parks and in the creation of Artesia's industrial park, police and fire stations, a retard dam, and many other projects important to the community of Artesia.

Mayor Thompson has not only been an active mayor for Artesia; he has also served in many other leadership roles. He has been a member of the National League of Cities, Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District, and the New Mexico Municipal League, for which he has served as President, and as well as First and Second Vice President.

He is also a tireless contributor to community organizations. He has served as president of the Artesia Rotary Club, the New Mexico Gideons, the Artesia Quarterback Club, and the Parents and Boosters Clubs. He is the Finance Chairman for the First Methodist Church of Artesia and has a 46 year association with the Boy Scouts of America, for which he has served as everything from Cub Master to District Chairman. He is also the recipient of the Boy Scouts' Silver Beaver Award.

Mayor Thompson has been involved in so much as Mayor that we are thankful for, but he would probably say his greatest accomplishment is his marriage of over 55 years to his wife, Grace. Together, they have one son and two grandchildren.

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Ernest Thompson for his years of dedication. New Mexico will miss his tireless service and we all wish him and his family the best in the coming years.●

RETIRING ARTESIA MAYOR ERNEST THOMPSON

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a man who is an accomplished public servant and friend—Ernest Thompson, mayor for the City of Artesia, New Mexico. On March 3, Mayor Thompson retires after guiding this southeastern New Mexico community for the past 26 years.

Without any hesitation, it can be said that Artesia, the self-proclaimed “City of Champions,” is a better place to live because of Ernest Thompson.

I want to personally thank Mayor Thompson for being a friend and compatriot over the years. He ascended to the mayorship of Artesia in 1972, the same year I was elected to the U.S. Senate. Since then, we have developed a very good personal and working relationship that I believe has been as rewarding to the people of Artesia as it has been to us personally.

Having once been in a mayoral position myself, I recognize Mayor Thompson's 26 years of public service as an example for anyone who wants to be in politics at the local level. His tenure represents a shining example of dedication, persistence, hard work, honesty and integrity.

Like the artesian wells that were once common in the area, Artesians

have a certain pride in their community that bubbles to the surface when they look at their past and to the future of their city. They are proud of the steady growth of their quaint town, its schools, and its bedrock values. In many cases, Ernest Thompson has helped foster that pride through his tenacious leadership.

When he leaves office this spring, he will leave to his successor a city with greater economic growth and job opportunities, better roads and infrastructure, and increased services for children and seniors. Through booms and busts over the past quarter century, Ernest Thompson has been a staunch promoter and champion of Artesia, and a stalwart defender for the rights and needs of small towns throughout the country.

Mr. President, let me take a moment to recount some background on my admirable friend, Ernest Thompson.

A native of central Texas, Ernest Thompson moved to Artesia in 1939 to work in the oil and gas industry, which is a major component of the economy in this region. After decades of work and dedication to his family, he retired from his job as a purchasing agent with Navajo Refining Company in Artesia.

Without previous political experience, Thompson was elected mayor of Artesia in 1972, and has maintained a dynamic presence in the community as a member of the Artesia Rotary Club, New Mexico Gideons, Artesia Quarterback Club, and the Parents and Boosters Club. For almost 50 years, he has been actively involved in promoting the Boy Scouts of America in southeast New Mexico.

But I believe his most notable contributions to the public have been as mayor. As Artesia has grown, Ernest Thompson has helped to improve the city as a whole. Since 1972, the city has gained extensive infrastructure improvements including a new wastewater treatment plant, water lines, flood protection structures, and street improvements. Under his administration, the city built a new law enforcement center, an airport terminal, a community center, as well as new fire stations. Artesia's public library and senior center have been expanded and remodeled.

Through it all, Ernest Thompson has worked effectively at state and federal levels to win support for his city. As a member of the Southeast New Mexico Economic Development District, he has toiled to build the area as a whole. A member of the National League of Cities since 1973, Mayor Thompson rallied for towns with fewer than 50,000 residents as president of the Small Cities Advisory Council. He is a member of the League's Finance, Administration, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

It is through this work to improve the City of Champions that Mayor Thompson and I have become friends.

I take pride in having played a role in winning for Artesia the Federal Law

Enforcement Training Center. I greatly admire city leaders who are innovative in creating opportunities to bring good jobs to their community. Mayor Thompson, with the support of the city counselors, county commission and citizens of Artesia, exhibited such innovation in attracting FLETC to the city in 1989. He greatly helped in my efforts to convince the Treasury Department that Artesia would make an attractive host city for the training facility.

Almost 10 years after we landed FLETC, I am still impressed with the innovation displayed by Mayor Thompson and the community to bring opportunity to the area. Buying the abandoned Artesia Christian College campus and actively working to find a suitable tenant—in this case a FLETC satellite facility—added a new and welcome facet to the area economy.

Taken as a whole, FLETC and other accomplishments will stand as a monument to the 26 years of leadership provided by Mayor Thompson. I will always admire him and his qualities as a leader. I do not say goodbye, but congratulations and thank you. I still look forward to his sage advice and discussions about Artesia, Eddy County, New Mexico and our nation.

Finally, I think it is appropriate to note that while Ernest Thompson was working as Artesia's mayor, he was at the same time a dedicated husband and father. I know his dear wife, Grace, is thankful for his love, dedication and care during personally trying times. Together they are a marvelous couple.

Mr. President, I invite the entire Senate to take note of this tribute to an outstanding local leader as he retires from public office. I ask them to join me and the people of Artesia in expressing gratitude to Mayor Ernest Thompson for all he has done on behalf of others.●

MARKET POWER AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE SOFTWARE INDUSTRY

● Mrs. BOXER. I would like to comment on the hearing held earlier today by the Senate Judiciary Committee on "Market Power and Structural Change in the Software Industry."

First, I would like to commend Chairman HATCH for holding this important hearing and for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. President, today's creative and innovative software products enable us to bank, conduct research, shop and even trade securities online. And this is just the beginning. It is important therefore, that such a vast and essential resource be allowed to grow and expand in a fair and competitive environment. But recent events had threatened to case clouds over this most fundamental premise. Let me explain.

On October 20, 1997 Attorney General Reno announced that the Department of Justice would ask a federal judge to order the Microsoft Corporation to

cease its practice of forcing manufacturers to sell its internet browser, Internet Explorer, with its widely used operating system, Windows 95. The U.S. District Court here in Washington, D.C. agreed, and on December 11, 1997 ruled that, pending further proceedings, Microsoft could not require purchasers of its operating system software to install its browser software.

In response to the Court's December 1997 ruling, Microsoft offered computer makers three options: (1) a version of Windows which Microsoft believed did not function; (2) a version of Windows which was more than two years out of date and no longer commercially viable; or, (3) Windows 95 bundled with Internet Explorer.

Thanks to the Department of Justice's continuing efforts, however, the storm clouds which had threatened an open and competitive market for internet browser software, now appear to be fading. On January 22, 1998, the Department of Justice and Microsoft reached an agreement in which Microsoft agreed to offer computer manufacturers a version of Windows 95 that contained a fully up-to-date operating system without its Internet Explorer internet browser.

But why should we care about this?

We should care about this because the biggest losers, perhaps, of any anti-competitive action in the internet browser industry will be the millions of everyday people who rely on the Internet. If one company gains such a huge and unfair advantage, other companies will not be able to compete; there will be no choices and innovation will be stifled.

This brings up the issue of "open standards." Open standards on the Internet will allow all access to the Internet without having to rely upon any one company or any one operating platform. Open standards work against monopolies, and ultimately benefit the Internet by increasing competition among software products, resulting in lower prices and a wider selection.

As a Californian, I am concerned about this issue for yet another reason. Cutting-edge software manufacturers from my home state provide tens of thousands of people with high-paying jobs, making software manufacturing one of California's most valued industries. Industry competition is thus vitally important to my state's interest.

I appreciate the integral role the Microsoft Corporation has played and continues to play in the information age—its contributions have been most significant and important. It has made computers and computer applications more accessible to millions of people around the world, and for that, it deserves appropriate recognition and credit. Microsoft has been, and continues to be, the leader in the computer industry. But other, smaller, companies must also be given a chance to compete in the best and oldest of American traditions.